

## Bookfolio for **My Brother Sam Is Dead**

**Author:** [James Lincoln and Christopher Collier](#)  
**First Publication Date:** 1984

**Publisher:** Four Winds  
**ISBN:** 0027229807  
**Recommended for:** [Grades 4-6](#)  
**Classification:** Fiction  
**Genre:** [Historical Fiction](#)

**Story Summary:** Twelve-year-old Tim Meeker must deal with family conflict as his father and brother choose opposite sides in the American Revolution. Tim's father, a Connecticut tavern-keeper, thinks the colonists have some legitimate complaints against England but nothing serious enough to cause war. His brother, Sam, whom Tim idolizes, decides to join the rebel army and returns home from college wearing a rebel uniform, increasing tension in the family. Tim's ambivalence between his father's loyalty to the English crown and his brother's soldier patriotism is reflected in the shifting loyalties of his home town. When his father is captured by cattle thieves, Tim takes on adult responsibilities helping his mother run the family tavern. As the war continues, Tim sees the bitter social and economic consequences it causes, even among those who try to remain neutral. Eventually Tim loses both his father and his brother to the war. The author concludes with an epilogue set fifty years later in which he tells the reader that the story is a memorial to his brother and all those who died to make the colonies a free country.

**Read-aloud Recommendation:** Chapter IV, pages 46-60

**The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:  
R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing**

<b>My Brother Sam Is Dead - Independent Activities</b>	<b>Skills</b>
1. <a href="#">A Conflict Web</a> (Mapping story conflicts)	D , S , W
2. <a href="#">Another Family's Story</a> (Creating a new set of characters)	W
3. <a href="#">Movie Poster</a> (Drawing an ad)	D
4. <a href="#">What's in a Name?</a> (Making a semantic map)	D
5. <a href="#">Another Way?</a> (Writing an essay)	S , W
6. <a href="#">Games Children Played</a> (Researching a topic)	R , S
<b>My Brother Sam Is Dead - Group Activities</b>	<b>Skills</b>
1. <a href="#">Two Wars, Two Boys</a> (Comparing two books)	L , S
2. <a href="#">Another Ending</a> (Writing a new ending)	S , W
3. <a href="#">The Tide Turns</a> (Researching a topic)	R , S
4. <a href="#">In Our Own Words</a> (Writing a summary)	R , W
5. <a href="#">Women With a Cause</a> (Writing a report)	R , W
6. <a href="#">"Let's Talk About..."</a> (Discussing the story)	L , S

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